



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 403

January Session, 2013

Substitute House Bill No. 6424

House of Representatives, April 8, 2013

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. DARGAN of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING FEES FOR SEARCHES OF ACCIDENT AND INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 29-10b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

3 The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
4 shall charge the following fees for the item or service indicated:

5 (1) Each search of the record files made pursuant to a request for [a
6 copy of] an accident or investigative report which results in no
7 document being produced, [six dollars, and on and after July 1, 1993,
8 sixteen dollars.] twenty-five cents;

9 (2) Each search of the record files made pursuant to a request for an
10 accident or investigative report which results in a document being
11 produced but of which no copy is made, twenty-five cents per page of

12 the document produced; and

13 [(2)] (3) Each copy of an accident or investigative report, [six dollars,
14 and on and after July 1, 1993, sixteen dollars] twenty-five cents per
15 page.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2013	29-10b

PS *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 14 \$	FY 15 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Revenue Loss	607,000	625,000
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Cost	570,000	588,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	191,000	197,000

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which modifies the fee schedule associated with searches and copies of accident and investigation records of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), would result in both a significant revenue loss and cost to DESPP.

Reducing the fee for searches of accident and investigation records from \$16.00 to \$0.25 plus a fee of \$0.25 per page would result in a revenue loss of approximately \$607,000 in FY 14 and \$625,000 in FY 15. This assumes that the number of document requests received by DESPP in 2012, 38,823, continues to grow by 3% per year and that each document averages 4 pages.

The move to a per page fee for searches and copies of DESPP accident and investigative reports would also require additional staff to handle request processing that is currently automated by the

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 34.54% of payroll in FY 14 and FY 15.

department's DocView system. It is estimated that at least one additional office assistant (\$42,685), with work station (\$1,160), would be required at each of the 12 State Police troops and headquarters for a total cost of \$570,000 (plus fringe benefits) in FY 14 and \$588,000 (plus fringe benefits) in FY 15.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing costs identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation. The revenue loss identified above would continue into the future subject to the rate of growth in the number of searches requested.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6424*****AN ACT CONCERNING FEES FOR SEARCHES OF ACCIDENT AND INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill changes the fees the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) charges for searching and copying accident or investigative reports from a flat \$16 to \$0.25 per search or page. It also adds a fee for document production.

Under current law, DESPP charges \$16 for (1) each search of a record file, for accident or investigative reports, that does not produce a document, or (2) each copy of such reports.

The bill makes this charge \$0.25 for (1) searches that do not produce a document; (2) each page of the document that is produced from a records search, but of which no copies are made; and (3) each page for each copy of such reports.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 0 (03/21/2013)